

## **Neighborhoods**

### **PF 3.1 Residential Stability**

Research has demonstrated a strong relationship between residential stability and child well-being, with frequent moves associated with such negative outcomes as dropping out of high school, delinquency, depression, and nonmarital teen births. Some researchers theorize that these negative associations may result from a lack of attachment to a local community and its institutions on the part of frequent movers.

The United States has long been a highly mobile society. In 1960, 21 percent of children under the age of 18 had moved to a new residence during the previous year. The general trend since that time has been toward somewhat lower rates of mobility, with a rate of 17 percent in 2000.<sup>19</sup>

**Differences by Age.** Young children were the most mobile of any child age group (see Table PF 3.1). In 2000, 23 percent of children between the ages of 1 and 4 had changed residences in the previous year, compared with 18 percent among children ages 5 through 9, 14 percent of ages 10 through 14, and 13 percent of youth ages 15 through 17.

**Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.**<sup>20</sup> For all children under age 18 in 2000, White children were the least mobile, with 16 percent moving during the previous year compared with 22 percent of Black and 21 percent of Hispanic children.

---

<sup>19</sup> Wood, D., Halfon, N., Scarlata, D., Newacheck, P., and Nessim, S. 1993. Impact of Family Relocation on Children's Growth, Development, School Function, and Behavior. *Journal of the American Medical Association* 270: 1334-1338; Coleman, J. 1988. Social Capital and the Creation of Human Capital. *American Journal of Sociology* 94: s95-s120.

<sup>20</sup> Estimates for Whites and Blacks include Hispanics of those races. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

**POPULATION, FAMILY, & NEIGHBORHOOD**

**Table PF 3.1**

Percentage of children in the United States under age 18<sup>a</sup> who have moved within the last year, by age and by race and Hispanic origin:<sup>b</sup> Selected years, 1990-2000<sup>c</sup>

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
<b>All children</b>										
All ages	18	17	18	17	17	18	18	17	17	17
Ages 1-4	24	23	22	23	22	25	24	23	23	23
Ages 5-9	19	18	18	17	17	18	19	18	18	18
Ages 10-14	15	14	15	14	13	15	15	14	13	14
Ages 15-17	15	15	14	14	15	13	14	13	13	13
<b>White<sup>b</sup> children</b>										
All ages	18	17	17	16	16	17	17	16	16	16
Ages 1-4	23	22	21	22	21	24	23	22	21	22
Ages 5-9	18	17	17	16	16	18	18	16	17	17
Ages 10-14	14	13	15	13	12	14	15	13	13	13
Ages 15-17	14	14	14	14	13	12	13	12	12	12
<b>Black<sup>b</sup> children</b>										
All ages	21	21	21	20	20	22	23	22	23	22
Ages 1-4	26	26	27	26	25	29	29	28	32	28
Ages 5-9	22	22	22	20	22	22	26	24	27	24
Ages 10-14	19	17	18	17	16	18	18	20	17	18
Ages 15-17	18	16	16	14	18	14	17	16	15	15
<b>Hispanic<sup>b</sup> children</b>										
All ages	25	21	24	23	21	23	23	21	19	21
Ages 1-4	32	27	27	28	26	31	28	26	24	26
Ages 5-9	28	20	25	24	20	23	21	21	19	20
Ages 10-14	18	19	21	19	15	18	22	16	14	18
Ages 15-17	21	19	19	20	21	19	17	17	16	18

<sup>a</sup> Estimates are based on children ages 1 and older at time of survey.

<sup>b</sup> Estimates for Whites and Blacks include Hispanics of those races. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

<sup>c</sup> Estimates for 1995 are not available.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-20, Nos. 538, 531, 520, 510, 497, 485, 473, 463, and 456. Table 1 in all. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

### PF 3.2 Children in Poor and Very Poor Neighborhoods

Recent research has demonstrated a significant relationship between neighborhood quality and the well-being of the children and youth who live in them. Even after controlling for relevant personal and family background characteristics, residence in a *low-income* neighborhood has been shown to have negative effects on early childhood development, associated with higher rates of dropping out of high school and with teen parenthood.<sup>21</sup> In 1999, 56.6 percent of children living below the poverty level lived in a very poor neighborhood—defined as a census tract in which 40 percent or more of the residents live in poor families<sup>22</sup> (see Table PF 3.2).

**Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.**<sup>23</sup> Black children were the most likely to live in very poor neighborhoods, followed by Hispanic children and White children. Sixty-one percent of Black children in poverty lived in more than 40 percent poor neighborhoods, compared to 56 percent of Hispanic children and 51 percent of White children (see Figure PF 3.2).

**Differences by Family Type.** Children in single-parent families in poverty were much more likely to live in a very poor neighborhood than were children in two-parent families (72.8 percent versus 36.4 percent) (see Figure PF 3.2).

---

<sup>21</sup> Brooks-Gunn, J., Duncan, G., Klebanov, P., and Sealand, N. 1994. Do Neighborhoods Influence Child and Adolescent Behavior? *American Journal of Sociology*, 99(2): 353-395. See also Crane, J. 1991. The Epidemic Theory of Ghettos and Neighborhood Effects on Dropping Out of High School and Teenage Childbearing. *American Journal of Sociology*, 96(5): 1126-1159.

<sup>22</sup> While trend data for children are not available, trends for the entire population show that between 1970 and 1990, the percent of all persons living in very poor neighborhoods increased from 3 percent to 4.5 percent, and the numbers nearly doubled from 4.1 million to 8 million. See Jargowsky, P.A. 1996. *Poverty and Place: Ghettos, Barrios, and the American City*, Table 2.1. New York: Russell Sage.

<sup>23</sup> Estimates for Whites and Blacks include Hispanics of those races. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

**POPULATION, FAMILY, & NEIGHBORHOOD**

**Table PF 3.2**

Percentage of related children<sup>a</sup> in the United States below the poverty level<sup>b</sup> by the poverty level of their neighborhood, by age, family type, and race and Hispanic origin<sup>c</sup>: 1999

	All Areas	Neighborhood <sup>d</sup> Poverty Level			
				30+ Percent Poor	40+ Percent Poor
<b>Total</b>	16.3	10.7	39.8	48.6	56.6
<b>Age of child</b>					
Under 6 years	18.0	12.1	42.5	52.4	61.1
6 - 17 years	15.5	10.0	38.4	46.7	54.4
<b>Family type</b>					
Married couple families	8.4	5.7	24.8	32.5	36.4
Under 6 years	9.0	6.3	25.9	33.4	33.4
6 - 17 years	8.0	5.3	24.2	32.1	37.8
Single parent families (female)	41.9	31.6	60.4	65.6	72.8
Under 6 years	50.3	40.2	65.7	72.5	82.1
6 - 17 years	38.3	28.3	57.5	62.2	68.2
<b>Race and Hispanic origin<sup>c</sup></b>					
White <sup>c</sup>	12.9	9.4	34.1	43.8	50.9
Black <sup>c</sup>	32.7	19.6	49.2	54.2	61.3

<sup>c</sup> Estimates for Whites and Blacks include Hispanics of those races. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Estimates for Whites also include all other persons not White, Black, or Hispanic.

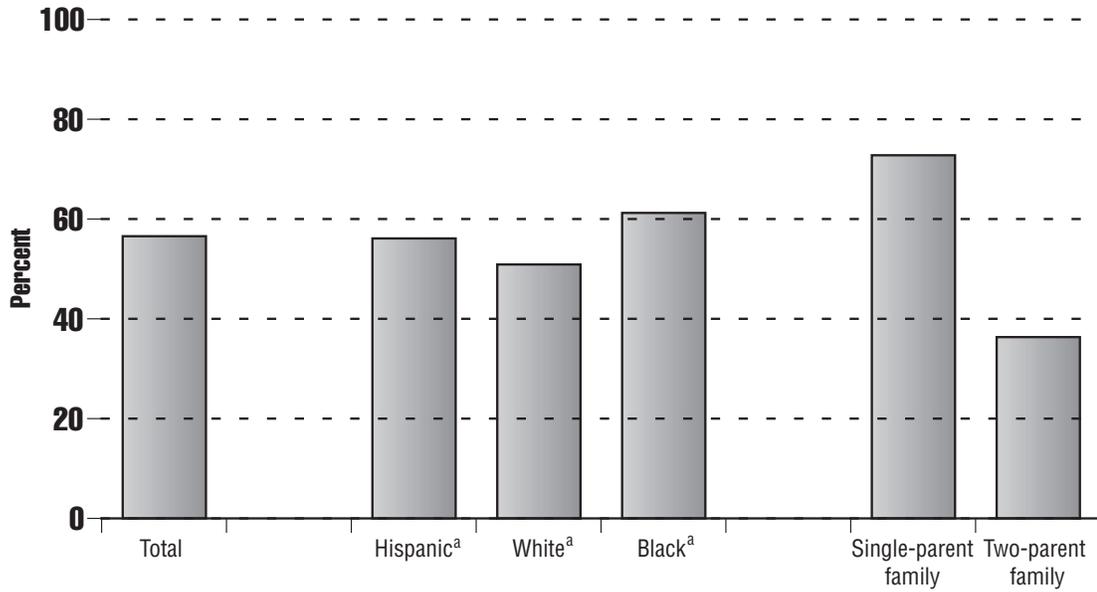
<sup>d</sup> Neighborhoods are defined as census tracts and block-numbering areas. Both metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas are included. The poverty rate is the percentage of all persons in the neighborhood living in families below the federal poverty line in 1990.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 1999. *Poverty Rate of Census Tract in 1989 — Poverty Statute of People in 1999*. Current Population Survey, March Supplement Table 5, Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

## Neighborhoods

**Figure PF 3.2**

Percentage of children below the poverty level in the United States who live in very poor (40+ percent poverty) neighborhoods, by race and family type: 1999



<sup>a</sup> Estimates for Whites and Blacks include Hispanics of those races. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Estimates for Whites also include all other persons not White, Black, or Hispanic.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 1999. *Poverty Rate of Census Tract in 1989 — Poverty Statute of People in 1999*. Current Population Survey, March Supplement Table 5, Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.